



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 165

January Session, 2001

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1022

Senate, April 9, 2001

The Committee on Commerce reported through SEN. LEBEAU of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT FILM, VIDEO AND MEDIA OFFICE AND COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 32-86a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) There is established within the Department of Economic and
4 Community Development a Connecticut Film, Video and Media
5 Office. The office shall be administered by [an executive] a director,
6 who shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Economic and
7 Community Development from a list of nominees submitted to the
8 commissioner by the Connecticut Film, Video and Media Commission.
9 The [executive] director shall have substantial experience in the film,
10 video and media fields and shall be exempt from the classified service
11 and may be an independent contractor.

12 (b) The Department of Economic and Community Development

13 shall provide additional necessary personnel and resources to enable
14 the office to perform its tasks and to assist the Connecticut Film, Video
15 and Media Commission.

16 (c) The office shall have the following powers and duties:

17 (1) To promote the use of Connecticut locations, facilities and
18 services for the production of films, videos, television programs, audio
19 recordings and other media-related products;

20 (2) To provide support services to visiting and in-state production
21 companies, including assistance to film, video and other media
22 producers in securing location permits from state agencies, authorities
23 or institutions or municipalities or other political subdivisions of the
24 state;

25 (3) To develop and update a resource library concerning the many
26 possible state sites which are suitable for filming and taping;

27 (4) To develop and update a production manual of available film,
28 video and media production facilities and services in the state;

29 (5) To conduct and attend trade shows and production workshops
30 to promote Connecticut locations and facilities;

31 (6) To prepare an explanatory guide showing the impact of relevant
32 state and municipal tax statutes, regulations and administrative
33 opinions on typical production activities;

34 (7) To formulate and propose guidelines for standardized permits to
35 be used by state agencies which shall be as close to a "one stop
36 permitting" process as possible, for matters including, but not limited
37 to, the use of state roads and highways, the use of state-owned real or
38 personal property for production activities and the conduct of
39 regulated activities, and to hold workshops to assist state agencies in
40 implementing such process;

41 (8) To formulate and recommend to municipalities model local
42 ordinances to assist production activities, including, but not limited to,
43 "one stop permitting" of film, video and other media production
44 activity to be conducted in a municipality, and to hold workshops to
45 assist municipalities in implementing such ordinances;

46 (9) To accept any funds, gifts, donations, bequests or grants of funds
47 from private and public sources for the purposes of sections 32-86 to
48 32-86b, inclusive, 32-87, 32-87a [, 32-88] and 32-90;

49 (10) To request and obtain from any state agency, authority or
50 institution or any municipality or other political subdivision of the
51 state such assistance and data as will enable the office to carry out the
52 purposes of sections 32-86 to 32-86b, inclusive, 32-87, 32-87a [, 32-88]
53 and 32-90;

54 (11) To assist and promote cooperation among all segments of
55 management and labor that are engaged in film, video or other media
56 production;

57 (12) To create advisory councils to carry out the purposes of sections
58 32-86 to 32-86b, inclusive, 32-87, 32-87a [, 32-88] and 32-90;

59 (13) To develop criteria for use by the Department of Economic and
60 Community Development, the Connecticut Development Authority,
61 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, and other state agencies and
62 authorities in awarding financial assistance for the production of films,
63 videos and other media projects in the state. The criteria shall (A)
64 provide for a secured position for the state and (B) give preference to
65 projects having significant advance sales or other commitments; and

66 (14) To take any other administrative action which may improve the
67 position of the state's film, video and media production industries in
68 national and international markets.

69 (d) Not later than January fifteenth, annually, the [executive]

70 director of the Connecticut Film, Video and Media Office shall submit
71 a report to the Commissioner of Economic and Community
72 Development, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
73 having cognizance of matters relating to commerce and the
74 Connecticut Film, Video and Media Commission on the activities of
75 the office and the estimated direct and indirect economic impact of
76 film, video, television, cable television-related, audio recording and
77 other media production activity in the state, during the preceding
78 calendar year.

79 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 32-87 of the general statutes is
80 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

81 (a) There is established a Connecticut Film, Video and Media
82 Commission. The commission shall be within the Department of
83 Economic and Community Development and shall serve as an
84 advisory group to the Connecticut Film, Video and Media Office and
85 to the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

86 Sec. 3. Section 32-87a of the general statutes is repealed and the
87 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

88 The commission shall:

89 (1) Monitor the activities of the Connecticut Film, Video and Media
90 Office and make recommendations to the [executive] director of said
91 office to improve state services for the state's film, video and media
92 production industries;

93 (2) Make recommendations to the Governor and state agencies
94 concerning administrative actions which it deems necessary or helpful
95 to improve such industries;

96 (3) Submit to the Commissioner of Economic and Community
97 Development (A) a list of nominees for the position of [executive]
98 director of the Connecticut Film, Video and Media Office, and (B)

99 proposed job evaluation criteria for the [executive] director;

100 (4) Identify and make recommendations to remedy state agency and
101 municipal actions or procedures which may have a negative impact on
102 film, video and other media production in the state or that may appear
103 to discourage or impose unnecessarily costly burdens on such
104 production in the state; and

105 (5) Assist and advise the Connecticut Film, Video and Media Office.

106 Sec. 4. Section 32-90 of the general statutes is repealed and the
107 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

108 The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
109 with the advice of the Connecticut Film, Video and Media
110 Commission, [shall] may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
111 provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

112 Sec. 5. Section 32-88 of the general statutes is repealed.

CE **JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST.**

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Affected Agencies: Department of Economic and Community Development

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

The legislation makes technical and clarifying changes to the statutes regarding the Connecticut Film, Video, and Media Office and the Connecticut Film, Video, and Media Commission. The bill requires that one report be distributed to two additional recipients, (the Commerce Committee and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Commissioner), eliminates the need for a report to the Governor and makes adoption of regulations which had been required, but never developed, discretionary. No net workload or fiscal impact is anticipated to result from these changes.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1022

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT FILM, VIDEO AND MEDIA OFFICE AND COMMISSION.

SUMMARY:

This bill allows, rather than requires, the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the statutes related to the Connecticut Film, Video, and Media Office and the Connecticut Film, Video, and Media Commission.

The bill also:

1. allows the commissioner to appoint an independent contractor as director of the film office and changes the title of that position from "executive director" to "director;"
2. eliminates the requirement that the film commission submit an annual report to the governor; and
3. requires the director to submit an annual report to the commissioner and the Commerce Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0